



For immediate release  
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Missouri Department of  
Economic Development  
P.O. Box 1157  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-1157  
[www.missouridevelopment.org](http://www.missouridevelopment.org)

Contact: Tammy Tucker 573-522-2724 or  
Jim Grebing 573-751-9065

### **Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid Folger Coffee Plant Employees**

KANSAS CITY -- The state has activated its Rapid Response Team to help workers that will be laid off from the Folger Coffee plant at 701 Broadway in Kansas City. Folger officials are closing the Kansas City plant, and moving those operations to the Folger plant in New Orleans.

About 127 workers will lose their jobs when the Kansas City plant closes. The layoffs are expected to occur between March 1 and June 30. The employees, who work in production at the plant, were offered choices of early retirement, transfers to other locations, or severance packages and career counseling services.

The Rapid Response team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Full Employment Council, the University of Missouri Project Refocus and the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations. The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Folger Coffee Plant employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"The Career Centers provide invaluable assistance through the Rapid Response team to workers who are displaced and in need of help," Driskill said. "Free re-employment services are crucial to keeping Missouri's workforce employed. We are working to do everything we can to help the Folger workers who have been displaced."

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling, resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education. These services are free of charge to the workers.

Representatives from DWD and the Full Employment Council are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to Career Center services. Meetings will be held with workers to explain how these services can help them find a new job at 9 a.m. on Feb. 20 and 21 at the Folger facility.

Employers interested in hiring Folger Coffee plant workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team can call DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or Steve Dempsey with the Full Employment Council at 816-691-2242.